

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A weld wire for storage on a spool of weld wire. The weld wire has a substantially linear cast in the form of an undulating curve that generally lies in a single plane. The undulating curve is a succession of generally semi-circular sections having a generally fixed radius of curvature. The linear cast is formed on the weld wire prior to the weld wire being wound on the spool of weld wire.

5 The linear cast is at least partially retained on the weld wire after the weld wire is unwound from the spool and during the feeding of the weld wire through a welding machine.